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CLOSED

OF COURSE, the United States will abide by the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague. The case between the United States and Norway involved ships requisitioned by the United States during the World War, and the liability of the United States to the amount of thirteen million dollars, plus interest since August, 1917, was claimed. The United States Government recognized a liability for a sum approximating \$2,500,000. By a mutual agreement the questions at issue were submitted to the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The case had been most carefully presented. William C. Denis, Esquire, of Washington, represented the United States as agent. It was the privilege of the Editor of this paper to sit for a time through some of the hearings. He was deeply impressed by the care with which each side had prepared its case. It is reported that the court awarded fifteen different amounts, ranging from \$160,000 to \$2,890,000, totaling altogether \$12,000,000. We are informed that there have been some technical objections to the findings of the court. The Honorable Chandler Anderson, the American arbitrator, declined to be present at the session when the award was announced. He explained his absence in the following words:

"Sir, in making the award signed today, October 13, by President Valloton and the General Secretary, Messrs. Valloton and Vogt (the Norwegian arbitrator), in my opinion, have disregarded the terms of submission and exceeded the authority conferred upon the United States and Norway arbitration tribunal by the special agreement of June 30, which imposes definite limits to its jurisdiction."

We understand that American council holds that there has been a disregard of The Hague Convention of 1907, requiring the arbitrators to state the reasons for each award made. This, in our judgment, is a quibble. The decision, covering forty-two large printed pages, gives the reasons for the award in general. It might have been better had the reasons been given in each case, but the result would not have been different. The outstanding fact is that a matter of dispute between two governments involving a large sum of money has by mutual consent been referred to a body of arbitrators. The hearings have lasted through many months. A decision has been reached. No one alleges that any miscarriage of justice has taken place. No mere technical matter, such as has been advanced, should cloud the validity of the award. The matter should be considered closed.

THE PROPOSED SOLUTION OF AUSTRIA'S DIFFICULTIES

THE FATE of Austria, to which reference is made elsewhere in these columns, is now in the hands of the League of Nations. The appeals of Chancellor Seipel and Foreign Secretary Grünberger have been heard. With the advice and consent of the League, protocols have been drawn. It is reported that Great Britain, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia, and Austria have signed. By their provisions, the sovereignty and independence of Austria are to be maintained. A loan is to be granted to Austria and guaranteed by the signatories. Austria is authorized to issue bonds to the amount of 650,000,000 gold krona. Britain, France, Italy, and Czechoslovakia will guarantee up to 80 per cent of the loan, Austria to give security in terms of customs and receipts from the tobacco monopoly. Austria in return promises to reduce her deficit, and to raise the rates upon her railway, postal, telegraphic, and other services. The League has appointed a financial committee to aid in the re-establishment of Austria's budget balance. The League also appoints a Commissioner General to supervise the execution of the terms of the protocols. His term of office will last until the financial stability of Austria is assured. The Commissioner is to have wide authority, passing upon Austria's right to negotiate loans. In addition there is to be a Committee of Control, made up of representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Czechoslovakia. Any other government undertaking to guarantee the remaining 20 per cent may also be represented upon this committee.

Every person acquainted with the facts hopes that this arrangement, or some modification of it, will save the life of Austria. We understand that the Social Democratic Party—that is to say, the Labor Party of Austria—is opposed to the arrangement on the ground that it threatens the sovereignty of the State. Some of the signatory powers have professed to see difficulties in the way of executing the agreement. Our own judgment is that, in the present weakened condition of the Austrian Government, a controller is an advantage. The question of sovereignty is not a serious one; indeed, provision for its security is made. The Austrian Government needs the confidence not only of her neighbors, but of her own people. The present protocols ought to open the way for the return of that confidence.

There are evidences, however, that the League of Nations plan may fail. It looks to many Austrians like foreign domination. No provision is made to treat the causes of Austria's troubles, such as the customs barriers. The plan means still higher costs of living. It